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In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116, the Applicants offer the foregoing Amendment to place Applicants' claims in condition for allowance or alternatively in better condition for Appeal. The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication that claim 21 is allowed and that claim 9 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form with all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. To that end, the Applicants have amended claim 1 to include the limitations of claims 8 and 9. Since claim 7 appears inconsistent with amended claim 1, it has been canceled. In view of this amendment, claims 8 and 9 have been canceled.

To place the Application in better form, the Applicants have cancelled the remaining pending claims 10-16 and withdrawn claims 17-20. Consequently, the Applicants believe that claims 1-6 and 21 are in condition for allowance and respectfully request notice of the same.

If any issues remain, Applicants would appreciate a telephone call to the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

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